



February 2010

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FACT SHEET

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR A WINDSTORM

High winds can pose a risk of property damage and power outages, according to the National Weather Service. Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security has issued the following preparedness information about windstorms to help keep you and your family safe.

What to do during a windstorm:

- Turn off the stove if you're cooking when power goes out, and turn off natural gas appliances.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, locate and use the manual override if the power goes out.
- Motorists should use caution, especially those in high-profile vehicles.
- Avoid downed electric power lines, utility poles, and trees.
- Listen to your radio for emergency instructions.

What to do after a windstorm:

- Evacuate damaged buildings.
- Call 9-1-1 to report a life-threatening emergency.
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound indoors, open windows and leave the building. Turn off the gas source and call the gas company. Do not use matches, candles, open flames or electric switches indoors.
- If the power goes out, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed; that can keep food frozen for up to two days.
- Provide assistance to your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
- Monitor your portable or weather radio for instructions or an official "all clear" notice. Radio stations will broadcast what to do, and the location of emergency shelters.

(Source: www.noaa.gov, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery to minimize adverse impacts on area residents and property.

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